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INNOVATION

Jewish: The Hebrew Roots of America's

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Apples, because they are thought to have been first domesticated in Turkey, and Superman, because of his

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INNOVATION

qualities of the Metropolis Marvel. In the run up to the movie's release, faith based press relations company Grace Hill Media invited

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INNOVATION

denote Elohim, or Yahweh, Jehovah, or God, like in the names Micha**el**, Ari**el**, and Rapha**el**. In his essay, Detweiller also referenced the

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similarities between the S symbol on Superman's chest and the Hebrew character Lamedh. Larry Tye, author of *Superman: The High-Flying*

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less in the country" and the next quarter century saw a wave of immigration as "another 1.75 million Jews would immigrate to

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INNOVATION

accomplished comic artists, displaying many of the talents and themes that would resurface in *Superman*. Shuster drew a

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is John Henry. While southern US states usually lay claim to the folk hero, the real Henry allegedly worked on the Chesapeake and Ohio

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withstand pain, already well conditioned by constant physical activity, led to their mythic status as super men.

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INNOVATION

world,' smashing all previous attendance records."

Renowned for feats of strength destined to become hallmarks of the comic book

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Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay, author Michael Chabon also makes the connection to the Golem. His protagonist, Josef

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Golem had resurfaced in popular Jewish culture. The same year Siegel and Shuster were born, Gustav Meyrink's *Der Golem*, a fictional

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robbery. A *Daily Mail* article about the attack states the oldest surviving artwork featuring Superman shows the caped hero "flying to the

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Shuster refreshed the Superman character design in 1945, again using a Jewish model for inspiration. While on vacation in the Catskills,

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INNOVATION

end! And there was the elevated right outside his window!"

While in New York, Siegel

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Metropolis. Hardcore sci-fi fans, Siegel and Shuster loved the movie and they used its title as a name for the fictional world their hero

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INNOVATION

to me, the concept came to me that Superman could have a dual identity, and that in one of his identities he could be meek and mild, as I was,

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INNOVATION

entertainments from Sheldon on *The Big Bang Theory* to *The Simpsons*' Professor Frink. Even the less overtly Hebraic actors who have

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Klux Klan resurged and saw early 20th century Jews as principal agitators in the spread of Communism, unionism, and

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INNOVATION

Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster were ten years old when Senator Ellison DuRant Smith gave his famous "Shut The Door" speech on

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That is why, for 74 years Superman's primary nemesis has not been another alien or superhero, but megalomaniacal xenophobic

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Hitler on the jaw. The comics led propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels to accuse Superman of being a Jew, and at least one vicious 1940

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multiple times in multiple settlements. One promised yearly salaries for the artists of about $25,000. More recently, surviving members

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incomprehensible force. Smith is interred at St. Luke's Cemetery in Lee County South Carolina. All interested parties are hereby invited to dance on his grave.

By slow means, the Jewish sensibilities of two boys from Ohio illustrated the movement of an entire country. The Jews who migrated to the United States have assimilated into its society, as have their creations. Superman isn't just the Last Son of Krypton—he's an American icon.

A previous version of this article incorrectly listed Rachel and Angel as Hewbrew names containing an "-el" suffix. This has been

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